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Monday, 19 October 2009, 11:29
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 KAMPALA 001197
SIPDIS
FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY CARSON FROM AMBASSADOR LANIER
EO 12958 DECL: 10/18/2019
TAGS PREL, PGOV, PINS, PHUM, EAID, KDEM, UG
SUBJECT: UGANDA: SCENESETTER FOR VISIT OF ASSISTANT
SECRETARY CARSON

Classified By: Ambassador Jerry Lanier for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1.(C) Summary: Under President Museveni's leadership, Uganda has become a confident and outspoken regional leader through its military role in

Elections and Uganda's Fading Democracy

¶2. (C) Uganda under President Yoweri Museveni and his National Resistance Movement (NRM) has made remarkable progress over the past 23 years.
¶3. (C) Opposition political parties, however, are fractured, politically immature, and greatly outnumbered in Parliament. They control no gove
¶4. (C) Although the press and civil society have enjoyed relative freedom under the NRM, harassment and intimidation of those critical of the
¶5. (C) Ethnic tensions, always present in Uganda in varying degrees, have also sharpened as Museveni and politicians on all sides have cultiva
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"Kings" are unelected and would lack political accountability. Indeed a semi-autonomous internal state would not only be a political threat to
¶6. (C) Museveni's heavy-handedness and the corruption of senior leaders have sparked dissent within the NRM. A group of NRM "rebels" consistir
¶7. (SBU) Our message: Conducting free, fair and peaceful elections in February 2011 would reinforce Uganda's image as an African success story
¶8. (C) Even if the President begins now to make good faith efforts to hold free and fair elections, he still may be unable to prevent serious,

Other Challenges: Human Rights and Corruption

¶9. (SBU) Uganda has made great strides in protecting human rights since the disasters of the 1970s and 1980s, yet the government's recent recc
¶10. (SBU) Uganda's anti-corruption record is not impressive. In 2007, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) initiated a threshold program
¶11. (SBU) Our message: While the UPDF and the Police have made progress in professionalizing their forces and in establishing systems to preve
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Continued abuses by these agencies severely damage the credibility and reputation of Uganda's political leadership. On corruption: The Presider

Peace and Security Part I: Somalia

¶12. (SBU) President Museveni believes a stable Somalia is necessary for peace and stability in East Africa. As head of the Intergovernmental A
¶13. (SBU) According to the UPDF, 45 Ugandan soldiers have died due to roadside bombs, suicide attacks, and non-combat related illness while se
¶14. (SBU) Our message: Uganda's commitment to AMISOM and the professionalism of the UPDF has made Uganda one of our primary partners in the fi

Peace and Security Part II: LRA and Karamoja

¶15. (SBU) Uganda's long-term stability is linked to the resolution of the 22-year-old LRA insurgency, finding viable solutions to other regior
¶16. (SBU) Northern Uganda has been at peace for three years and continues to recover and rebuild from the LRA's abduction of over 40,000 child
¶17. (SBU) Karamoja is Uganda's most insecure region due to conflicts between local nomadic groups with a history of cattle-rustling. Conflict
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¶18. (SBU) Our message: We commend the GOU's efforts to bring about a resolution to the 22-year old conflict with the LRA, and will continue to

HIV/AIDS and Population Growth

¶19. (U) The long war against the HIV/AIDS epidemic is at a crossroads. Under Museveni's leadership, Uganda was a pioneer in recognizing and ta
¶20. (SBU) Population trends in Uganda are a demographic time bomb that will destroy the country's economic and social gains. Few countries in
¶21. (SBU) Our message: We recognize and commend President Museveni's previous commitment to combating the spread of HIV/AIDS. However, infecti

Economic Opportunities and Oil

¶22. (SBU) President Museveni is dedicated to an enlarged East African Community, to liberalizing the Ugandan economy, to containing inflation,
¶23. (SBU) In October 2006, Canadian firm Heritage Oil announced the first oil discovery on the shores of Lake Albert. The British firm Tullow
¶24. (SBU) Our message: Uganda's oil resources could and should be a boon for economic development and make the country less dependent on forei